

# Grand opening held for Transit SRO location

## High demand leads to satellite office

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority opened their new satellite office Aug. 10 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

“We’ve been trying to expand in that area through the transit system,” MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge said. “We’re trying to branch out because our ridership numbers keep growing.”

Transit previously operated solely out of the MCN capital in Okmulgee. They provide transportation services across the 11-county tribal jurisdiction to citizens, Native Americans and the general public.

The new office is aimed at providing quicker response times.

“We want to do everything possible to help our citizens,” LaSarge said.

Transit - 7



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge (left) and MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson (right) cut a ribbon Aug. 10 to open the new MCN Transit Authority satellite office at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka, Okla.

## Muskogee Regional Office holds program fair

### Department, programs and candidates share information

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Muskogee Regional Office held a program fair Aug. 17 on-site in Muskogee.

Departments and programs were invited to provide a representative to share information about what they do and how they can help the citizens who live in or around Muskogee.

“We wanted to have this because some of the citizens that do not live near Okmulgee do not know what all our programs do,” MCN Community and Human Services Office Manager Nancy Deere-Turney said. “This fair is to let them know what our tribe can offer and what assistance they can get if they need help.”

Secretary of the MCN Department of Community and Human Services, Cherrah Giles wants MCN entities to take advantage of the MRO to assist citizens.

“With our office here, we can have our departments come here to the citizens to help lessen the traveling hardships that some of our people do have when they have to make long trips,” Giles said.

The event also featured bounce houses for the children to play in.

“We want the children to have fun while their parents are looking around at our programs,” Deere-Turney said.

The event was also used to rally voters for the upcoming election.

“It is election time,” Giles said. “We need our citizens to use their voice and vote.”

Earlier that day, CHS partnered with the Mvskoke Youth Services Program to host a youth and elder luncheon.

Members of the MNYS Mvskoke Nation Youth Council served the meal and also hosted bingo.

“We want our generations to collaborate between our elders and youth,” MNYS Program Assistant/Intern Jasmyne Jack said. “We feel that this is one way of doing it and it is successful.”

For more information about the MRO, call Deere-Turney at: 918-549-2586. The office is located at 111 S. Virginia in Muskogee.



The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Candidate Forum was held Aug. 15 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. Mvskoke Media, Media Coordinator Jessica McBride (center) addresses candidates (l to r) Thomas Yahola, David Nichols, Adam Jones, James Floyd and George Tiger before the event as Faculty Director of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy at the University of Oklahoma, Lindsay Robertson (far right) waits to begin his role as forum moderator.

# Mvskoke Media hosts MCN Principal Chief Candidate Forum

## 2016-2020 executive hopefuls address topics submitted by citizens

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief Candidate Forum was held Aug. 15 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

According to a Mvskoke Media release, the forum was a service provided to Muscogee (Creek) citizens to learn about the candidates ahead of the election

and offered an opportunity for the candidates to inform citizens of the qualities, experience and ideas they will bring to the position if elected.

The candidates answered the questions starting in alphabetical order and then rotating with the

initial responder for the first question answering last on the second with a continuation of this format for the remainder of the event.

Forum - 6

# Reintegration holds groundbreaking for new transitional living facility



Darren DeLaune/MNN

## Center to house newly released RiP clients

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials along with staff from the MCN Reintegration Pro-

gram held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 21, for new RiP transitional living facility and administrative building in Henryetta.

The new living center is

Transitional - 2



Children attending the Mvskoke Language Program Preservation Immersion Camp July 27-29 color a clan coloring book containing Mvskoke words.

## Language program hosts immersion camp

### Staff teaches children Mvskoke language

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Little voices shouted animal words ‘Katcv, nokose, wotko,’ from

inside a classroom during the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Language Immersion Camp July 27-29 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmul-

Camp - 2



## TRANSITIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aimed at helping to provide encouraging and positive re-entry conditions for Muscogee (Creek) citizens transitioning back into the community from incarceration.

“In our program we believe that everybody is important,” RiP Manager Tony Fish said. “Even an ex-prisoner.”

The facility will offer accommodations for up to 36 clients for a time period of six months to a year.

“We will be able to house 24 men and 12 women for six months to a year, depending on the need of the individual,” Fish said. “We believe that each individual is different so we will tailor our plans around the individual.”

Fish expects the new administrative offices to further enhance the program’s outreach.

“There will be office space for my staff to meet the needs of the people that we serve,” he said.

The planned facility will also house a vocational technology

learning center to train citizens in skills such as driving commercial vehicles and welding.

RIP hopes the center will eliminate their need to fund clients being housed in locations that the program does not own.

“That is the bonus for us to have the facility here,” Fish said. “We will not have to drive our clients to another area to house them.”

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was on-hand for the ceremony.

“I always said the Reintegration Program follows the tradition and culture of our people,” Tiger said. “In the case of our Reintegration Program, they do much more than that; they believe offering a hand but also our hearts.”

The project was designed by Architect 1 and is set for completion by RedStone Construction in July 2016.

For more information about the program, call: 918-652-2676.

The facility will offer accommodations for up to 36 clients for a time period of six months to a year and is set for completion in July 2016.

## CAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gee.

Children from first to sixth grade learned words for things like colors, numbers, Mvskoke clans and basic greetings.

“The camp has gone really well. The kids really enjoy it,” MLPP Manager Chumona Deere said.

The campers also learned a few Mvskoke language hymns and were treated to story time and a puppet show.

“We just start out real small,” Deere said. “We are just trying to encourage the babies and the parents to hold on to the language, hold on to the language however you can, even if it is just two or three words.”

At the end of the three-day camp, the children were presented with certificates, T-shirts and a backpack with school supplies.

Deere said they have received a lot of feedback from parents.

“It just about makes me cry when I hear young parents talking Creek to their baby,”

Deere said.

Deere mentioned a few program updates. She said they are currently recording the Mvskoke language Bible and working to preserve hymns.

“We are wanting to record so people can listen to it in their cars,” Deere said.

They are also creating a Mvskoke language curriculum to be taught in public schools. The teachers would need to be certified through the MLPP as knowledgeable and then by the state.

Under Oklahoma House Bill 2548, Native American languages can be taken for an academic credit.

“They don’t have to have a teaching degree in order to be certified. The state has it fixed to where they would have a teacher across the hall or somewhere that would kind of oversee the class,” Deere said.

The curriculum must meet state academic foreign language standards.

Deere hopes to be finished in August.

## Lighthouse provides receptacle for medicine disposal



Darren DeLaune/MNN  
Members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department along with Covanta Energy Corporation Director Matthew Newnam (left of bin), stand beside a new receptacle Aug. 19 at LTPD headquarters that will be used to dispose of pharmaceuticals.

### Proper handling promoted for safety, environment

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department in collaboration with the MCN Environmental Services Department obtained receptacles Aug. 19 for the disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Two receptacles, or as LTPD calls them, ‘the pill eaters’ will be used. One will be stored in the lobby of LTPD headquarters while placement of the other is still being determined.

“This receptacle will provide a

safe, secure and anonymous disposal of pharmaceuticals,” LTPD Meth Initiative Officer Daniel Wind said. “This is a safer alternative to throwing them away or flushing them down the toilet.”

A 2002 U.S. Geological Survey found pharmaceutical products in ground water samples.

“We have learned that a lot of people will dispose their old pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet,” MCN Environmental Specialist James Williams said. “Trying to dispose of the old medicine does not get rid of them and studies have shown it to be in the ground water.”

A proper receptacle can help prevent accidental ingestion of

medication, improper medication usage and the prevention of pharmaceutical products contaminating water sources.

“With these receptacles, we can dispose the prescription medicine the right way without it being hazardous to anyone and also safe for the environment,” Wind said.

When it is time for the receptacles to be dumped, they are taken to an incinerator at a Covanta Energy Corporation facility for proper disposal.

LTPD and Environmental Services staff went through a training to learn how to handle the bins.

Covanta Director Matthew Newman spoke about the receptacles.

“We always hear about pills not being disposed of the right way,” Newman said. “With the proper training of how to handle the receptacles, this will help get the pills properly taken care of, which in turn will help the environment.”

The LTPD receptacle is open to the public and those who dispose of medication will remain anonymous.

LTPD offices are located at 2200 Alligator Trail in Okmulgee.

To reach LTPD call: 918-732-7800.

In case of an emergency, call LTPD at: 877-547-3390.

## Muscogee (Creek) association holds forum in Tennessee

### Candidates make trip to visit citizens out east

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Some Muscogee (Creek) citizens that do not live within the tribal jurisdiction still feel that they can do something in their respective communities to benefit other citizens living near them.

The Tennessee Creek Association happens to be one of those organizations.

TCA became chartered with the state back in 2007 when a couple of Muscogee (Creek) citizens living in Tennessee got together to advocate for Native American issues that were going on in the state.

“It helped out that we were all Muscogee (Creek),” TCA member Melba Checote Eads said. “Once we started meeting, we started going forward with what

we are wanting to do.”

Checote Eads and the other members want the association to be recognized in the state.

“We are sticking close to our tribe even though we live in another state,” Checote Eads said. “We need the state of Tennessee to realize what our tribe has done here.”

The TCA held a forum Aug. 8 in Murfreesboro, Tenn., to allow

“We want all of our citizens living here to join. More members only makes our association stronger and gives us a voice.”

— Tennessee Creek Association member  
Melba Checote Eads

all the candidates who are running for office in the upcoming Muscogee (Creek) Nation elections to come out and speak.

“We had some familiar faces to our association show up along with new faces,” Checote Eads said.

She also expressed excitement about the phone calls for voter registration.

“The citizens understand that if they want to be heard, they have to vote,” Checote Eads said. “More voters only helps our tribe.”

She said that TCA has over 60 members but she found out there are over 200 Muscogee (Creek) citizens living in Tennessee.

“It has been a struggle for us because we all have jobs and other things that we are doing but we are still wanting our organization to be successful,” Checote Eads said. “We are going to do what all we can do to keep this going.”

She invites all citizens living in Tennessee to come out and attend a TCA meeting.

“We want all of our citizens living here to join,” Checote Eads said. “More members only makes our association stronger and gives us a voice.”

For more information call: 615-210-7276.

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Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaylee Hummingbird (right) and Maggie Hummingbird (left) have a multi-generational love of softball in their family.

## Softball passed down among Hummingbird family

### Family shares love of sport down through generations

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Many Native American families share softball as a favorite pastime. For Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaylee and Maggie Hummingbird, this is generational. Their grandfather, Rev. Grover Wind grew up playing softball and passed that down to his children. One of his daughters, Kimmee Hummingbird passed down what she knew to her daughters, 14-year-old Kaylee and 11-year-old Maggie. “They grew up watching their father and I play,” Kimmee said. “Their interest for the sport began at a very young age.” Both began playing at the age of four. “We have always been around softball,” Maggie said. “My mom played when she was pregnant with me.” Their softball skills have taken them to different parts of the U.S. to compete in national competitions. “We got to go to a lot of different places to play,” Kaylee said.

“We want to play as much as we can and the places we get to go are a lot of fun.” One of the places Kaylee got to play was Orlando, Fla., where her team competed in the ‘Road to the World Series,’ which is similar to the Little League World Series. Her team, the Oklahoma Diamondgirls ended up winning the tournament, which was shown on ESPN. “That was fun,” Kaylee said. “I had a great time playing there.” The sisters play for different age divisions of the Diamondgirls and both pitch for their respective teams. Kaylee plays shortstop when not on the mound and Maggie plays first base. Their mother said the whole family is constantly on the go. She enjoys every minute of watching her girls play the sport they love. “If they aren’t playing then they are practicing,” Kimmie said. “Even when they do not have practice, they are doing something to work on their fundamentals, even if it is just around the house.” Kimmie said that softball is

year-round for the girls, which is very challenging because they also play basketball. They said with each day, their love for softball grows. “I don’t get tired of playing softball,” Maggie said. “I want to play as much as I can.” Kaylee said she does get tired sometimes but this feeling changes after showing up. “It’s weird when I show up to where we are practicing, I do not feel tired no more and I am ready to play,” Kaylee said. Kimmie said both daughters work on fundamentals consistently. “We could be at the gas station getting gas for the vehicle and the girls will get their bats and get out of the car and start practicing their swinging,” Kimmie said. Their mom hopes that this sport will continue to be a generational. “I hope they keep playing when they are older and pass it down to the generation after them,” Kimmie said. Kaylee plans to play at Glenpool Public Schools this year and Maggie plans to play at Lone Star Public Schools.

## The Beach Boys perform at River Spirit Casino



Darren DeLaune/MNN  
For only the third time in 50 years, Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductees, The Beach Boys performed in Oklahoma July 16-17 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

### Concert sells out both nights for HoF band

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — For only the third time in 50 years, Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductees, The Beach Boys performed in Oklahoma July 16-17 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa. “We performed at a civic center somewhere here in Oklahoma 50 years ago this month,” lead singer Mike Love said. “We have people who were in the audience at that concert in 1965. I really love our fans here.” The band is in the middle of their 167th concert tour and celebrating their 50th anniversary. “What else can I do, all my kids are grown up,” singer and keyboardist Bruce Johnston said. “This keeps us going and keeps us close to our fans.” The band performed two

nights at RSC and both were sold out. Songs such as ‘Good Vibrations,’ ‘God Only Knows’ and ‘Kokomo’ filled the seats. The older generation was taken back to their younger years while the new generation was treated to music that will forever be etched in history. Johnston loves the Event Center’s stage since it puts them closer to the audience, giving a more personal feel to the performance. “The stage is great for our band,” Johnston said. “There is nothing on it except us. I love it.” TBB showed up at RSC ready to go and gave a great performance to their fans who the band said have remained ‘true’ to them through all these years. “Although we have not been here a lot,” Love said, “our fans welcome us and treat us like we have never left. That shows what impact our band has made and our fans have been nothing but

loyal to us.” TBB gave a gift to the audience through the last song during Thursday’s concert, a performance of Merle Haggard’s, ‘Okie from Muskogee.’ “We have always loved this song,” Johnston said. “What a better treat than to sing it to everyone here tonight.” Cindy Taylor, who was there for the Thursday night concert, said the performance was everything she thought it would be. “I grew up on their music and they sound the same as when I heard them on the radio,” Taylor said. Love wanted to let the fans know that the band feels the same sense of nostalgia as the audience when they play. “They show old videos of us during our concerts now,” Love said. “Seeing those videos, looking at those clothes, it brings back great memories of a great time.” Love is pleased with the band’s legacy. “It is such a great feeling to see our fans’ reaction to our music,” Love said. “Because of them is the reason why our music is a part of history.” Johnston shared those same sentiments. “I love the atmosphere that our music gives to the fans,” Johnston said. “It is great to see what it has done for everyone.” Love wanted to share one more thing with everyone who was at the concert. “We are honored that you came out to see us and shared some great memories,” Love said. “Thank you.”

The 'Muscogee Nation News' will provide coverage of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Fiscal Year 2016 budget negotiations between the MCN National Council and the MCN Executive Branch in the Sept. 15 edition.

## Muscogee (Creek) citizen begins new coaching challenge

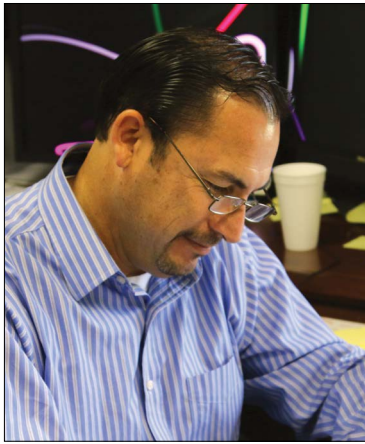
### Wolfe seeks to pass on knowledge to younger generation

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SASAKWA, Okla. — There is a popular saying that, ‘too much of a good thing can be bad.’ This quote does not pertain to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rikki Wolfe and her love of basketball. If she is not in a jersey, she still wants to figure out some way to be as close to the court as possible. She managed to accomplish this after her career playing college basketball. “I wanted to coach because I wanted to pass down what I learned to kids younger than me,” Wolfe said. After two stints as an assistant coach at Depew Public Schools and Carl Albert State College in Depew and Poteau respectively, Wolfe has taken a lead role as head coach for the Sasakwa High School girl’s basketball team in Sasakwa. Wolfe loved her time at CASC but felt it was time to move on to the next challenge. “The college level of coaching was great and I learned a lot,” Wolfe said. “However, I felt it was time for me to go back to the high school level and coach there.” Wolfe made the decision to pursue a head coaching position when she came across an opening with Sasakwa. She made a trip to the Class B school, looked over the area and immediately knew that it was the place where she wanted to start as a head coach. “I knew this would be a

challenge to be a head coach,” Wolfe said. “It was definitely nerve-racking in all decisions that needed to be made.” In her inaugural season as head coach, her team competed well into the playoffs before bowing out in the area tournament quarterfinals. “Overall it was a very good year,” Wolfe said. “I could not have asked for a better year for my first year being a head coach.” Wolfe’s team enjoyed their first year with her. “She is not one of those coaches who jumps all over the players,” senior player Courtney Taylor said. “She does get frustrated but she always has something positive to say and pushes us to do the best that she knows we can do.” Wolfe coaches her team as athletes and every day people. “I want my players to know that they are overall great people and they need to have the confidence to do something and do it right, not only on the court but away from the court,” Wolfe said. “I want them to be successful in life.” Wolfe said her ultimate goal is not chasing state championships. “My goal first and foremost is to have an impact for Jesus Christ,” Wolfe said. “I want to keep him as the basis and foundation in everything I do. I have talked about my faith to my players and what Christ has done for my life and I want to be able to share it with them.” Wolfe is the daughter of Rick and Minnie Wolfe and she is a member of the Fuswv (Bird) Clan and Tukvpvce Tribal Town. passion he has for the sport. Being able to participate in so many aspects has helped him appreciate it more. “Now I can say I have been on both sides of the basketball,” Douglas said. Douglas has been a referee for over 20 years, traveling all over the state for basketball games from the ‘B’ classes all the way to ‘6A.’ Douglas felt he had built up his resume enough to referee at the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association State High School Basketball Championship held March 5-6 and 12-14. In the past seasons, he never received the email saying he could do this and it started to bother Douglas. “I was beginning to get discouraged,” he said. “I felt I have done everything in my power to deserve the opportunity to be a referee in the state tournament.” He was considering stopping as a referee until he finally received the long awaited email. “When I got the email I finally told myself, ‘I made it,’” Douglas said. Douglas is a former employee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department and is currently superintendent for Midway Public Schools.

## Citizen comes ‘full circle’ in basketball, life



Darren DeLaune/MNN

### Douglas experiences sport from all angles

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bruce Douglas feels he has come full circle when it comes to basketball and life. This past season Douglas accomplished what few people have by adding another piece to his career. He has worn a basketball jersey during the state high school tournament (player), worn a suit (coached), watched from the stands as a proud parent and now, refereed a state tournament game. “My highlights,” Douglas said. “Only a few can experience that and I am happy to say that I am one of them.” Douglas spoke about the



## Oklahoma ranked 17th nationally for suicide deaths



MNN/Chelsie Rich  
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in 2013, 521 Native Americans took their own lives. Of those individuals, 64 lived in Oklahoma.

### Clinician says asking direct questions is key to prevention

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — We have all made the statement, ‘just shoot me,’ or ‘I wish I was dead.’ But each time we say it, are we serious about the consequences of such a remark?

“Even if it just came out across your lips just for a second doesn’t mean that you truly had a plan and were desperately thinking about it, but it briefly crossed your mind,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Clinician, Robin Hudson LeBlanc said.

Robin, a Cherokee Nation citizen, has dedicated her career to fighting for mental health issues and suicide prevention after she experienced the effects of suicide first hand.

Her son, Tyler made his first suicide attempt in 2005.

For the next three years, Robin not only conducted research on mental illness and suicide prevention, but went back to school to help fight for Tyler and others.

“Depression and mental illness... it’s just like a cancer. It can’t be detected on X-ray,” Robin said. “You don’t have a bandage. It’s in your head and it’s in your heart. You’re broken and there’s days you can’t get out of bed and no one understands that.

“And no one gives you the moment to recapture your life and to be able to get up and be able to deal with that and be able to go on. They just want you to hurry up and snap out of it. Tomorrow will be better. And it just doesn’t work that way.”

What Robin found in her experience, was that those who need help are either sent to a mental health center or a co-occurring facility but not a place that concentrates on the fact that they do not want to live.

Robin said that some researchers and experts are fearful of the contagion effect, where attempters are not helped by talking to others who are also depressed, but would be influenced to take their own lives.

“We have learned that talking about suicide doesn’t cause suicide. Talking about suicide gives somebody an outlet to talk about suicide,” Robin said.

Robin lost her son in March 2008.

Since then, she has been advocating for a facility to assist attempters with their needs and provide care specific

to their symptoms.

She also serves as the Oklahoma state chairperson for the Suicide Prevention Council.

Robin is the first suicide survivor to chair the committee.

A suicide survivor is an individual who has lost a loved one to suicide.

Suicidal symptoms include: erratic behavior, depression, withdrawal, changes in sleep cycle, telling people goodbye, giving away prized possessions and moodiness.

Robin recommended being up front if you are worried about someone.

“You should always talk to someone who you think is having trouble,” Robin said. “If you do ask someone, you should ask them directly.”

She recommended asking, ‘Are you thinking about taking your life?’ or ‘Are you thinking about killing yourself?’ instead of phrasing the question negatively.

“The first time you ever say it, the first time those words come out especially when it’s a loved one, especially when it’s your own child, it’s the hardest thing that you’ll ever do,” Robin said. “But once you do it, you’ll be amazed. Usually the one who’s on the other side if they are suicidal, they’ll be very truthful.”

She also said that the right questions have to be asked.

“We just get so busy with our lives, we just want to hear fine and OK,” Robin said.

If you know someone is thinking of taking their life, do not leave them by themselves. Robin recommended calling someone who is qualified to talk to them.

By dialing 211, you will be connected with someone who can transfer you to an appropriate response team. When dialing 911 or the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department, ask for a crisis intervention trained (CIT) officer.

You can also drive them to a hospital. Robin suggested keeping them in the back seat with the child locks on.

“You just need to make sure you keep them safe and yourself safe,” Robin said.

MCNDH is hosting a World Suicide Prevention Day event at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 10 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee. The event will include a hope walk.

If you, or someone you know has suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Hotline at: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

You can also text ‘Hi,’ to the Crisis Text Line at: 741741 and speak to a trained listener that can help you.

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is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

▶ Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st

▶ Income Verification (last year’s income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)

▶ Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)

▶ Birth Certificate

▶ Immunization Record

▶ Child’s medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.



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The first question:

‘Why do you want to be principal chief and what are your goals for the position? Do you plan to hold positions outside of the tribe, or will you focus your attention solely to being principal chief?’

Photos by: Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

Translations provided by: The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

James Floyd



“ Good morning everyone. I want to thank Mvskoke Media for hosting this event. I want to serve as principal chief because I feel that I have the qualifications and experience that the tribe needs at this time. I have thought about this for quite some time and in the last several months, am in a position at this time where I can devote my full time and attention to the tribe and the business of administrating the tribe. I recently retired from my position so my full time attention will be in administering the affairs of the tribe as the principal chief. I have no outside business interests or any other things that can advert my attention. My two children are grown so I intend to be a full time principal chief and be working for you every day. I also want to ensure that regardless of the issues we have at hand at the time, that I’ll be objective in looking and listening to the points that are raised and the matters as we consider the decisions to move our tribe forward. I believe that my experience of being from the outside is a plus, to bring a fresh perspective and I think that will be very helpful. My career began with Muscogee (Creek) Nation and I’m glad to be back here again and I’m looking forward to serving in the capacity of the principal chief and look forward to doing my very best every day. Thank you.”

David Nichols



“ My goal for principal chief is to make this tribe move forward. We need to bring ourselves into the modern times of the world we live in today. We will still focus on culture and traditional things also but we have a lot of growing to do. In the last four years, we’ve set a lot of foundations but our foundations haven’t grown. And that’s my job, to help this Nation move, grow and prosper for the citizens of the Nation. Once we begin our move and growing, we will have the resources and financial resources to improve our programs, focusing mainly on healthcare in the beginning. Healthcare is very vital to every citizen sitting in this audience today. We will all use healthcare some day and it needs to be the best it can be. My full time will be working for the Nation. I do have a job in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I will be resigning that job, focusing 100 percent of my time working for the Nation and I will proudly serve you with my heart. I want to serve the people, to grow, to prosper, to just see us be number one again. We don’t have to be number one, but we want to be on top, along with other tribes. We’ve kind of fell to the wayside and we’re going to have to turn that around in many ways. With a lot of good help, with a lot of good people and a lot of good mileage and citizens coming on board. We have a lot of good employees now and we want to work with them. Have training things to help better our tribe. Thank you.”

The candidates addressed other questions relating to:

**The fiscal transparency of OneFire Holding Company LLC and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, the plans for properties recently purchased by the Nation, freedom of the press, the abolishment of special appropriations, blood quantum and educational background requirements for political office, the Hickory Ceremonial Ground issue in Wetumpka, Ala., and the parental leave policy for MCN employees.**  
**View a video of the full forum with their answers to these questions here (the forum begins at 32:30):**

<https://youtu.be/EU2oBeuIIhI>

Adam Jones



“ I believe I wanted to be principal chief for the reasons of this, I feel like our Nation is too comfortable. We bring hard work, that is what we do. Our personal business, we work hard every day. That work ethic was instilled to me by my family and I bring that to this Nation. That business has to be set aside because the number one concern for me, our Nation is too comfortable now and we need to push forward and make this more progressive. Thank you.”

George Tiger



“ *Hesci! Momen hiyowe etvlwv Mekko ohfytcv vtotketv tektvnke pum palatcat mvto makit os.* (Hello! And now I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to carry out the duties of the Nation’s chief’s work.) I want to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of this forum to allow us to stand before you and have this opportunity to talk about the Office of the Principal Chief. As the current principal chief, I’ve never waived from having this as a full time position and I believe it is reflective on the success that we’ve had over the last three-and-a-half years. In terms of health, education, all the various things that you will hear about this morning, we’ve came in and improved all facets of those particular programs. But we have yet to scratch the surface and I believe that it is important that we continue working together, in setting aside our indifferences and what have you, to be able to continue working for the people that are our stakeholders and that’s our citizens. *Mvto Makis.* (I say thank you.)”

Thomas Yahola



“ *Hesci! Nettv heret onko?* (Hello! Isn’t today a good day?) Good morning, I’m pleased to be here with the citizens to tell you why I want to run for the Office of the Principal Chief. The Office of the Principal Chief should be of integrity, honesty and transparency and that’s what I stand for. I have the experience in the leadership as being speaker for four terms, so I have proved leadership. Honesty, integrity and transparency has been my life. I’ve been working all my life to have those characteristics. I had breakfast with a friend of mine this morning, we discussed the Office of the Principal Chief and honesty and he said, ‘I have known you since childhood and I do not question your honesty.’ Also, being the principal chief, you select individuals that can run your programs that have integrity, that have compassion, that want to do for the people and that’s what I want. Also something I want to implement, I don’t like calling someone and there’s an answering machine. I want someone to answer that phone, gives a response. Also, I want to have a staff and individuals who will cross train, so if someone is absent, then they can pick that up and pass the information along to you. And I am pleased to be before you to ask for your vote. I will continue to be accountable for all my actions. I will be accountable to myself. I will be accountable to you. I will represent myself with integrity and I will represent this Nation with integrity also. *Mvto.*”







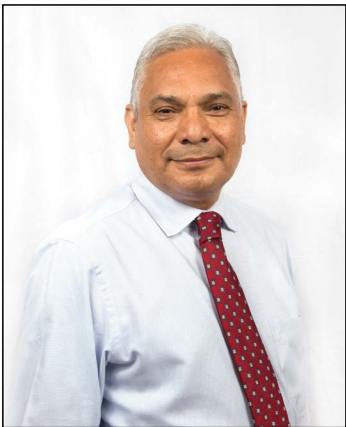
# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

## MCN principal chief candidates

### James Floyd Principal Chief

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Koweta  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye  
**Education/Experience:** Master’s degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity - Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork - established IHS/VA sharing agreements — Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs



**Platform:** While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

**Contact information:** 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

### Adam Jones III Principal Chief

**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Koweta  
**Church:** Little Coweta Indian Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council



**Platform:** I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can’t have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

### David Nichols Principal Chief

**Clan:** Wotko (Racoon)  
**Tribal Town:** Tukupvtce  
**Church:** Salt Creek United Indian Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** High school/20 years National Council representative



**Platform:** My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation’s citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself ‘would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?’ MVTO.

### MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. **The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News'** as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their **100 total word limit** bios. **No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'**  
Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Co-sper at: 918-732-7697 or [scosper@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:scosper@mcn-nsn.gov) or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or [cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov).

### George Tiger Principal Chief

**Clan:** HOTVLE (Wind)  
**Tribal Town:** O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)  
**Church:** Yardeka Indian Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)  
**Education/Experience:** Morris HS, Haskell Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary Doctorate – Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

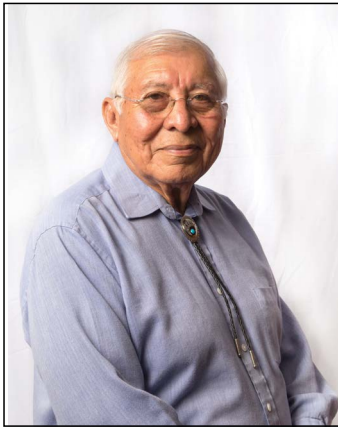


**Platform:** Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSOKKE ETVLWV’VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

### Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

**Platform:** The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

## MCN National Council Seat A candidates

### Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

**Clan:** Katcvlke  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha  
**Church:** Many Springs Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

**Platform:** We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

### Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

**Clan:** Eco  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Member of Montesoma Indian Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.



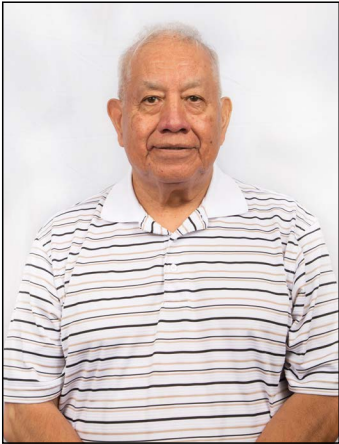
**Platform:** His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Wilson Bear McIntosh District

**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Eufaula-Canadian  
**Church:** Protestant  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee  
**Education/Experience:** B.S. Psychology/  
Sociology



**Platform:** Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.

## Del Vince Beaver Okmulgee District

**Ceremonial Ground:** New Tulsa  
**Clan:** Aktvkculke  
**Church:** New Beginnings Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, environmental management, ordained minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe’s resources.



**Platform:** Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

## Tony Bell Creek District

**Church:** Jenks United Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.



**Platform:** Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

**Contact information:** Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511

## Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

**Clan:** Tiger  
**Tribal Town:** Hickory Ground, Sand Creek  
**Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors



**Platform:** It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, “Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?” Whether you’re a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.

## Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Thlopthlocco Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Psychology/  
Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate



**Platform:** I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this time in our Nation’s history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.

## Franklin Joseph Coachman Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Nokosulke (Bear Clan)  
**Tribal Town:** Etlwlv Rakko (Big Town)  
**Church:** Arbeka United Methodist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf  
**Education:** Associate Degree in Science  
Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University



**Platform:** As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.

## Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Sweet Potato  
**Tribal Town:** Tukvpvtce  
**Church:** Wewoka United Methodist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama  
**Education/Experience:** Medical field 34 years, with MCN Department of Health nine years, last five years with the Tobacco Prevention Program



**Platform:** Health, education and welfare.

## Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Kialegee  
**Church:** Springtown United Methodist  
**Education:** Coweta Schools, Haskell Institute, Tulsa Business School



**Platform:** I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.

No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose ‘Pete’ Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama Quasarty  
**Church:** Tekopvtce  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama  
**Education:** Associates applied science



**Platform:** Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.

## Randall Darrin Hicks Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Raccoon  
**Tribal Town:** Ufala  
**Church:** Buckeye Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Okfuskee



**Education/Experience:** Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

**Platform:** If elected as the National Council representative of the “Great Muscogee Nation,” I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.

## David W. Hill Creek District

**Clan:** Beaver (Echaswv)  
**Tribal Town:** New Tulsa  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Okfuskee  
**Education/Experience:** Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



**Platform:** I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

## Robert Hufft Tulsa District

**Clan:** Deer  
**Church:** Asbury Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the National Council as well as served on various committees.



**Platform:** I believe it’s time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

## Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Weogufkee  
**Church:** First Baptist of Coweta  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate constructor of the American Institute, OSU Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council



**Platform:** My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation’s future. I will inform our people with complete transparency.

**Contact information:** 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

## David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

**Tribal Town:** Tulmochussee (inactive)  
**Church:** Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.



**Platform:** I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two great-grandchildren.

## Rodney Josie Tulsa District

**Clan:** Deer  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Weogvfke/Muddy Waters  
**Education/Experience:** A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15 years experience construction budgeting/contracts.



**Platform:** I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

## Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Tukvpvtce  
**Church:** Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tukvpvtce (inactive)  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



**Platform:** Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won’t be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens’ will as my priority.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## ***Sandra Peters*** ***Okmulgee District***

**Clan:** Ancient Mother Clan Wind

**Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega

**Church:** Trinity Baptist

**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka

**Education/Experience:** B.A. art education, Master's study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



**Platform:** We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

## ***Tom O. Pickering*** ***McIntosh District***

**Clan:** Sweet Potato

**Tribal Town:** Hichiti

**Church:** West Eufaula Indian Missionary Baptist

**Education/Experience:** OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman of Roads Committee and Economic Development Committee, seven years community chairman, five years community board member



**Platform:** Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

**Contact information:** 918-618-2015

## ***Darrell Proctor*** ***McIntosh District***

**Clan:** Deer "ECOVLKE"

**Church:** Weogufkee Missionary Indian Baptist

**Education/Experience:** Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician in manufacturing and power utilities - 29 years. Deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your McIntosh District representative. I respectfully ask for your voting support. MVTO.

Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.



## ***Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose*** ***McIntosh District***

**Clan:** Bear

**Tribal Town:** Arbeka/Nuyuka

**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka

**Education/Experience:** Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act. Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/patient benefits coordinator.

**Platform:** I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.



## ***Rufus Scott*** ***Tukvptce District***

**Clan:** Wind

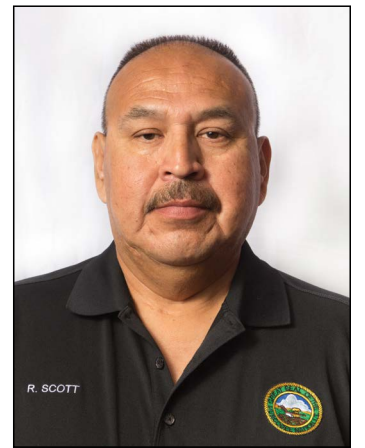
**Tribal Town:** Alabama

**Church:** Alabama Baptist

**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama

**Education/Experience:** U.S. Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president 16 Years

**Platform:** I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewvske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Mvskoche Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.



## ***Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas*** ***Okmulgee District***

**Clan:** Nokose

**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha

**Church:** Honey Creek UMC

**Education/Experience:** BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees - Community Services and Cultural Committee and Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

**Platform:** Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.



## ***'Carol' Eugenia Tiger*** ***Okfuskee District***

**Clan:** Eco

**Tribal Town:** Fishpond

**Church:** Springfield UMC

**Education/Experience:** High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years

**Platform:** My job as your Council representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

**Contact information:** Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompps.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee



## ***Eleanor 'Irene' Van Buskirk*** ***Tulsa District***

**Clan:** Wind

**Tribal Town:** Kvncvte

**Church:** Newtown Methodist

**Education/Experience:** Bachelor Of Business Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.

**Platform:** I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God's blessings. MVTO!

**Contact information:** 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk





# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Sam ‘Gene’ Whitlow Tukvptce District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Hickory Ground  
**Church:** Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

**Education/Experience:** Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Mvskoke speaker - Retired

**Platform:** I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.



## Grover Wind Okmulgee District

**Tribal Town:** Kvsehtv  
**Clan:** Nokosvlke

**Education/Experience:** High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.

**Platform:** Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.



## Dean Williams Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Church:** Baptist

**Education/Experience:** Henryetta High School, OSU Associate Degree, construction technology. Worked 22 years within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, seven years as GSA/Facilities manager providing assistance to the departments and communities of MCN.

**Platform:** Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Mvskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.



## Lena Wind Okfuskee District


**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama  
**Church:** New Beginnings Henryetta

**Education/Experience:** B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the MCN Scholarship Foundation, member of the MCN Health Board, Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years.


**Platform:** Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that will give extended protection for our children.




# MUSCOGEE VETERANS PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH TUESDAY 10 NOV 2015




14 JUN 1775




13 OCT 1775



10 NOV 1775



4 AUG 1790



18 SEP 1947

To commemorate the election of the Principal Chief and Second Chief, Muscogee veterans of all armed forces branches will exercise the long standing military tradition of Pass-In-Review to be recognized by our elected leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch. The Pass-In-Review will be held in front of the east entrance of the National Council mound building.

- 1000
- 1030
- 1200
- 1230

**VETERANS ASSEMBLE AT VASO BUILDING**

**DIVISION FORMATION REHEARSAL**

**PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH**

**CHOW (AT ONEFIRE CASINO)**

**MUSCOGEE VETERANS PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY 9 NOV 2015 BY CONTACTING:**




Ken Davis (918) 732-7739 • Shawn Taryole (918) 732-7745 • Chelsie Dickerson (918) 732-7616 to log in your attendance. Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest.  
(In case of rain, the event will take place at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex)

## MUSCOGEE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO  
10 NOV 2015

- Free chow provided by OneFire Casino
- 1330-1600 - a \$1,000 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600
- This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans
- Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest

- If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service and Muscogee citizenship
- Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow
- Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing



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